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House of Representatives State of Idaho

March 11, 2019

HOUSE MINORITY LEADER

Dear Members of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee:

In 2010, the Office of Performance Evaluations (OPE) studied Operational Efficiencies in Idaho's Prison System. They released a comprehensive report showing that Idaho's prison system was facing challenges ranging from aging facility infrastructure to a forecast of a growing prison population. In 2012, the OPE produced a follow-up report reiterating the 2010 findings.

In the year 2019, it is time to assess what has been done to address the issues identified in the 2010 and 2012 reports. What operational efficiencies have been improved since the 2010 and 2012 reports were issued?

Accordingly, I request an update on the 2010 and 2012 OPE reports on Operational Efficiencies in Idaho's Prison System, to include (1) what operational efficiencies have been improved; (2) have there been other relevant changes in our situation between 2010 and now; (3) what effect efforts at reducing recidivism are likely to have on the total prison population; (4) what effect sending inmates out of state has on their safety while in prison and recidivism rates after release; (5) how and when we can resume housing all Idaho inmates inside the State of Idaho; and (6) projections of needed additional capacity.

Sincerely,

Representative Mat Erpelding

Representative Paul Amador

Representative Clark Kauffman

Representative John Vander Woude

Representative Muffy Davis

Representative Jake Ellis

Representative Caroline Troy

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Representative Tom Dayley

Representative Ryan Kerby

Representative Greg Chaney

Senator David Nelson